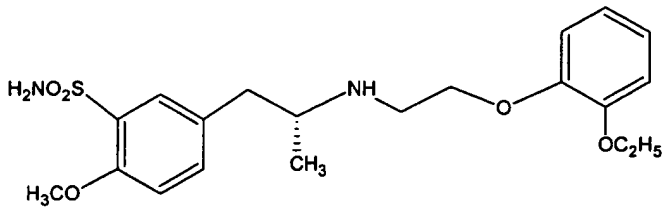
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

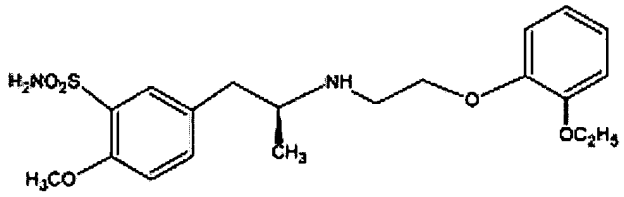
1. (Original) A process for preparing optically pure enantiomers of (R)-5-(2-((2-(2-ethoxyphenoxy)-ethyl)amino)propyl)-2-methoxybenzenesulfonamide [R-(-)-tamsulosin] of formula Ia



(Ia)

and

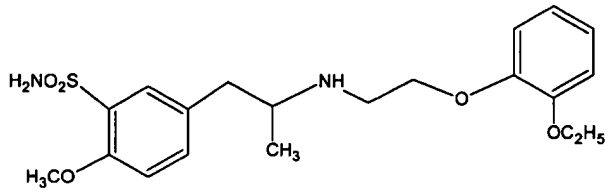
(S)-5-(2-((2-(2-ethoxyphenoxy)-ethyl)amino)propyl)-2-methoxybenzenesulfonamide [S-(+)-tamsulosin] of formula Ib.



(Ib)

comprising:

(a) the resolution of racemic tamsulosin of formula I



(I)

by the treatment with (1R)-(-)-camphor-10-sulfonic acid and (1S)-(+)-camphor-10-sulfonic acid, resp., in an environment of organic solvents, water or mixtures thereof;

(b) further purification of the crystallized salt of R-(-)-tamsulosin or S-(+)-tamsulosin by crystallizing form organic solvents, water or mixtures thereof, until the desired optical purity is obtained;

(c) from the salt of R-(-)-tamsulosin or S-(+)-tamsulosin is released, by treatment with alkalis, the base of formula Ia or the base of formula Ib, resp.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein steps (a) and (b) are carried out in an environment of alcohols.

3. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein steps (a) and (b) are carried out in an environment of water.

4. (New) A process which comprises:

(a) preferentially precipitating one diastereomeric camphor sulfonate salt of tamsulosin from a solution containing a pair of diastereomeric camphor sulfonate salts of tamsulosin to form diastereomeric enriched precipitate and diastereomeric enriched solute.

5. (New) The process according to claim 4, which further comprises forming said solution by dissolving a solid mixture of a pair of diastereomeric camphor sulfonate salts of tamsulosin in a solvent.